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Barriers tumble as Arava crossing opens

Christopher: 'Now the war is over, now the peace will prevail'

DAVID MAKOVSKY
ARAVA BORDER CROSSING

ISRAEL and Jordan began removing the barriers between the two countries yesterday, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan inaugurated the Arava border crossing, just north of Eilat and Akaba.

In remarks made after he and Rabin cut the symbolic ribbon at the crossing, Hassan said this ceremony was the first step towards broader reconciliation and prosperity between the two peoples.

"It has always been our vision that under conditions of peace, the Middle East will be marked by the free movement of persons, capital and goods across national frontiers," Hassan said.

He concluded his speech in Hebrew, quoting Hosea 2:15: "We will turn the valley of trouble into a gate of hope."

Rabin, in his remarks, noted that only a few days earlier, soldiers had detonated a minefield in the area, some of whose mines were apparently laid more than four decades ago.

He dismissed critics who said they believed the peace process was moving too quickly.

"We have waited 46 years, we have gone through war, pain

and suffering," Rabin said. "To prevent further loss and sorrow, we cannot wait even one day more."

In an apparent nod to Syrian sensibilities, Rabin carefully referred to an accord with Jordan as part of a comprehensive peace in the region.

Damascus reportedly broadcast most of yesterday's ceremony on state television.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who also spoke, quoted novelist William Faulkner, who said, "Man will not merely endure. He will prevail. 'Now the war is over, now the peace will prevail,'" Christopher said.

Twelve-year-old Nancy Tayan of Akaba, wearing a traditional sequined headdress, and 10-year-old Zohar Ginsburg of Kibbutz Eliot gave their respective leaders the scissors to cut the ribbon.

After Rabin and Hassan made their cuts, they shook hands with each other and with those next to them: Christopher, Jordan's Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The Arava border crossing can be used for now only by third-party nationals. According to sources, Jordan will allow such people to enter without a

prearranged visa, but is insisting that visitors stay in the country at least three nights.

No Jordanian or Israeli vehicles will be permitted to cross. The crossing will be open on Monday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., the sources said.

The Arava crossing is the first between Israeli and Jordanian sovereign territory. The crossings at the Allenby and Damiya bridges link Jordan to the administered territories.

After the leaders' remarks yesterday, nine Israeli and Jordanian families who lost relatives in wars between the two countries met each other. Standing in two rows facing one another, the families exchanged gifts.

Just after that, army veterans of the wars between the two countries also lined up and exchanged gifts.

Ya'acov Shimon, whose brother Yosef was killed by Jordanian forces in 1948, displayed the copper picture of Petra given to him by a member of a Jordanian family that had lost a relative in combat.

"It has been a long time since Yosef was killed by Jordanians," said Shimon, a 63-year-old bus driver from Eilat. "I am not angry at Jordan. We also killed in war. I am happy that the wars have come to an end. I



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) and Jordan's King Hussein stroll along the shore of the Red Sea after their meeting at the royal palace in Akaba yesterday. (Reuters)

am glad leaders of both sides are making the right decisions.

"I have gone up on my roof in Eilat and looked with binoculars at Akaba," he said. "I now hope to visit Akaba."

Amidst all the hope and opti-

mism yesterday, Jordanian officials counseled caution.

"We are full of expectation but there are still problems," said Dr. Munzer Haddadin, the chief Jordanian negotiator on the issue of water.

He said he agrees with Israel that new shared water resources must be found, but at the same time he said Jordan insists upon a fair allocation of existing water resources. Elyakim Rubinstein, Israel's

chief negotiator with the Jordanians for almost three years and widely trusted by them for his discreet approach, was also a bit restrained, saying, "There is work ahead, but today is certainly a milestone."

Christopher postpones return to Damascus

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who held talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last night in Jerusalem to discuss his five-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad, has decided not to return to Damascus today as planned, US officials say.

These officials insist the fact Christopher is not returning as scheduled does not constitute a setback to peace efforts. Some sources insist that indeed incremental progress has been made, but did not elaborate.

Both US and Israeli officials have said that Assad, who shuns dramatic steps under any circumstances, now wants to make sure it does not look like he is making concessions out of panic following the Israel-Jordan breakthrough.

Speaking to reporters in Eilat after a landmark summit with King Hussein in Akaba yesterday, Rabin termed Christopher's shuttle important in clarifying positions. "The gaps between our positions and

the Syrians' are still deep and broad," Rabin said. But he added: "Syria wants peace - the problem is the price, the timing, the timetables."

Christopher said that both countries still "have a great distance to go" to make peace.

After meeting with Rabin, Christopher held a dinner for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Speaking to American reporters on Christopher's plane on the way from Akaba to Tel Aviv last night, Peres declared that the recent series of attacks on the Lebanon border was over and gave Syria credit for reining in pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas.

"We told the secretary before he flew into Syria that the Syrians are in a position to stop their shooting," Peres said. "Our feeling today is it is over - the story is over. It's an important gesture to continue the peace negotiations... [but] The Syrians are thinking more about negotiations with the United States than with Israel."

Hussein: Peace negotiations with Israel will not be sidetracked

DAVID MAKOVSKY
AKABA

AT a joint press conference with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Jordan's King Hussein yesterday made it clear that peace negotiations with Israel will not be sidetracked.

Speaking under palm trees in his Akaba palace garden, the monarch said: "We feel, as we address you today, that we are friends and partners moving with determination, vision, commitment, towards building the foundations for a comprehensive peace in this region; but essentially moving to address all problems that need to be faced and addressed adequately, to insure that beyond words, deeds occur that can transform this region to what it should be."

He added, "We are determined and we are committed, and we are confident that with God's blessings we will fulfill our duties to-

ward generations to come and live in peace, the kind of peace that I've felt with myself is something I've never experienced over the many, many years that are past."

Rabin saluted a beaming Hussein, saying progress could not have been achieved "without your vision and courage, your majesty. You led your people through difficult periods, and you made the right decision now, a very courageous decision, that no doubt changes the face of the Middle East today."

The meeting and press conference by a cruise by the two leaders on Hussein's royal yacht, which entered Israel's territorial waters

for the first time. Hussein sounded upbeat, could not say when he planned to visit Jerusalem or when Israelis who do not hold foreign passports would be allowed to visit Jordan.

Referring to President Ezer Weizman's invitation to visit Israel, Hussein told reporters, "I hope it will be arranged sometime soon." (Continued on Page 2)

Rabin and Arafat may meet tomorrow

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is likely to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint tomorrow, the prime minister told reporters in Akaba yesterday.

Rabin insisted that the arrangements have not been finalized. The meeting would be the first high-level Israel-PLO contact since the Gaza-Jericho implementation agreement was struck on May 4th.

The meeting would come amid complaints by both leaders. Arafat has voiced anger about the Washington Declaration,

which says that Israel gives "high priority" to Jordan's control of Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem during final status talks with the Palestinians.

Arafat has also called for the release of more Palestinian prisoners. Israel has released 4,000 prisoners during the last few months.

Rabin, meanwhile, has been voicing deep concern about Arafat's inability or unwillingness to establish accountable Palestinian financial institutions. The setting up of such bodies would enable donor countries to begin paying hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance to the fledgling Palestinian Authority.

In recent days, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has passed messages between Arafat and Rabin in a bid to smooth over these tensions.

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Expert: Trans-Israel Highway a must for country's development

EVELYN GORDON

THE Trans-Israel Highway is a necessity for the country's development and now is the time to build it, Dr. Yacov Sheinin, president of Economic Models Ltd., told the Knesset Finance Committee.

"The essential need for this road is that it will disperse the population," he said yesterday.

"The better the road, the more it draws [people] outwards" from the city centers.

Sheinin explained that once a good road is available, it becomes possible for businesses to locate all along the roadsides, since they will be easily accessible. This system is very developed in the US, he said, giving the Washington Beltway as an example.

Sheinin also said that now is a good time to build such a road, because the necessary equipment is standing idle and high unemployment provides a pool of manpower.

Yehuda Cohen, managing director of the Trans-Israel Highway Co., succeeded in convincing most of the MKs that a railroad could never be an alternative to a road. Even in countries such as France and England, which are considered to have highly devel-

oped rail systems, he said, only 8 percent to 10 percent of all journeys are made by train.

"Only when people have no choice will they use public transportation," agreed MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz), noting that trains can never replace the door-to-door convenience of the private car.

"The level of motorization in Israel is half, or less than half, what it is in Europe, and a third of what it is in the US," Poraz continued. However, he added, as the standard of living rises the country will become increasingly motorized.

"Whoever thinks that under these conditions it will also be possible to keep large areas as nature reserves is simply mistaken, in my opinion," he said.

Poraz was responding to objections made by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

The society also stressed that any compensation to farmers whose land was confiscated should be in money, not alternative lands, to prevent further wild areas from being cultivated. However, this proposal did not find favor with the agricultural lobby, which

charges that farmers aren't being compensated enough.

MK Shmuel Avital (Labor) complained that the government should have reached an agreement with the farmers before bringing the law to the Knesset. Now, he said, the farmers are being painted as opposing a project of national importance, which they really support, just as they were painted as opposing the Oslo accords for fear that Israel would be flooded with cheap produce from the territories.

However, Poraz charged that there was no excuse for paying farmers more than the actual damage they will suffer, and that the government had erred in submitting a special bill, rather than dealing with the issue under existing expropriation law.

"By [submitting] a special law, the government created a huge uproar and great expectations, which wouldn't have happened if it had acted in the ordinary manner," he said. "We cannot agree that certain people be given exaggerated compensation from the public purse."

Even members of the agricultural lobby, however, agreed that the road is essential.

Peres confirms talks on release of Yemeni Jews despite Yemen's denials

BATSHEVA TSUR

"If reports that Yemen has opened its doors to an exodus of its Jewish community are correct, we will be the first to welcome this," Jewish Agency acting chairman Yehiel Leket said yesterday.

"We will make arrangements for their immediate absorption," he said. "But we have no information as yet on this."

He declined to comment on whether there were negotiations to fly the Yemeni Jews directly to Israel, nor would he reveal how the Yemeni Jews who arrived in Israel during the past year had reached this country.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had confirmed that ne-

gotiations were under way to bring Yemen's remaining Jews to Israel. Asked about the media reports that Yemen was ready to let its Jews go, Peres told Army Radio: "I heard this this morning same as you. I know there are negotiations being conducted."

"If that's the situation, we must all welcome it. It's a very important development," Peres said.

But in Sanaa, a Yemeni official told Reuters: "Yemen is not allowing its Jews to go to Israel directly or indirectly."

"Yemeni Jews are citizens enjoying the same rights and obligations as any other citizens. Like

other citizens, they have the right to travel anywhere in the world except Israel," he said.

"The general principle is that as citizens, Yemeni Jews are not barred from going abroad...but the fact that they travel every now and then does not mean they are going to Israel. They travel for trade, tourism or medical treatment and come back," the Yemeni official said.

Yemeni officials told Reuters in Sanaa last year that the government could not stop Yemeni Jews from traveling to Israel if they did so through another country.

Close to 400 Yemeni Jews have

recently immigrated here, Leket confirmed.

The immigrants have settled mainly in the Oshiot quarter of Rehovot and in Ashdod. During the recent visit to Israel of the Satmar Rebbe, there were reports that members of the Yemenite community had been tempted by offers of financial help to move to the US. In fact, only one or two did so.

There are about 1,000 Jews still living in Yemen, almost all in the vicinity of Sanaa, near the border with Saudi Arabia. Almost the entire Jewish community of 45,000 was brought here in the early 1950s in the airlift known as Operation Magic Carpet.

Police: Givatayim bomber was a criminal, not a terrorist

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV police are still hunting for the man who was wounded when a bomb he was about to throw on a busy Givatayim street exploded Sunday evening.

Police do not know how badly he was wounded and have been checking hospital emergency wards, in the hope that he went for treatment.

The incident caused widespread panic in the Tel Aviv suburb, as police were initially convinced that a terrorist was responsible for the incident. Roads were sealed for several hours and resi-

dents were ordered to stay indoors as massive forces of police and sappers organized a hunt for the man and for additional bombs.

None were discovered, but a remote-control device, evidently to be used to operate the bomb and dumped by the man when he fled, was found in a nearby cemetery.

But police later announced that the chaos had been caused by a Jewish criminal who wanted to settle underworld scores. Evidence found at the site of the explosion strengthened their theory.



The Bank Mizrahi branch in Jerusalem's Bayit Vagan (above) section was robbed of some NIS 20,000 at about noon yesterday. Witnesses said that a man about 30 years old, wearing a cap and sunglasses, threatened one of the tellers with a pistol and demanded that a plastic bag he was carrying be filled with cash. He then fled in a car. A passerby tried to follow him in his car, but the robber escaped. (Isaac Harari)

Composer Mordechai Seter dies at 78

ISRAEL Prize winner and composer Mordechai Seter died yesterday in Tel Aviv. He was 78.

Born in Novorossiysk, Russia, Seter immigrated to Palestine in 1926. He began to study piano at the age of seven and in 1932 traveled to Paris to continue his studies. He returned to Palestine in 1937, when he began teaching at Michael Tuba's conservatory. From 1951 until his retirement, he taught at the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv.

After returning to Palestine, he was part of a group of young Israeli composers which aimed to form an Israeli musical style.

Seter based his musical style on the monophonic tunes of the Sephardi Jewish community, and later on Yemenite Jewish melodies. Seter transferred this material into modern compositions, a technique he learned in Paris. In this way he developed a unique, personal style.

Among his early important works were *Sabbath Cantata* for soli, chorus and string orchestra (1944) and the *Four Festive Songs*. For his *Midnight Vigil*, he won the Israel Prize for music in 1965.

His later works included *String Quartet No. 1* (1975), *Intervals for Piano* (1973) and *Dialogue for Piano* (1983).

(Itim)

Hopeful Golan Druse also preparing for peace

DAVID RUDGE

GOLAN Heights Druse are also preparing for peace and hope a proposed new stadium in Bika'ata village will be the site for a treaty-signing ceremony between Syrian and Israeli leaders.

"It would be a great honor, not only for our village but for the whole of the Druse community," Bika'ata local council chairman Ahmed Farhat, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"Bika'ata used to be on the main route between Israel and Syria. Once there was a road that ran from here via Hadr to Damascus. We hope that when peace comes it will become the main route again," said Farhat. He noted that the local council,

with the aid of religious dignitaries, had drawn up plans to build a 3,000-seat stadium in the village, at a cost of around NIS 250,000.

"The plans are in the final stages of approval and we hope that work can start soon and be finished in time for when the peace treaty between Israel and Syria is ready to be signed," he said.

"It has been our dream to be able to see peace, real peace with open borders, become a reality. It would truly be a dream come true if the signing ceremony could be held in the [proposed] new stadium of our village with all the leaders present," he added.

Placido Domingo in Jerusalem - maybe

HELEN KAYE

TENOR superstar Placido Domingo will sing at a special concert to be held in Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool amphitheater on August 31, if negotiations with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (JSO) are successfully concluded.

The JSO is currently on its summer break, with some members abroad, the orchestra's spokesman said last night. A decision is expected this afternoon. The concert would be sponsored

jointly by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Foundation.

Domingo last appeared here in 1986, singing with the Israel Philharmonic in Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park.

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Visit at the studio of Shmuel Mushnik, artist.

Museum in Beit Hadassah, established to perpetuate the memory of Jews who died in the 1929 riots in Hevron.

Tour of Beit Romano, which was originally the home of S'de Hamed and was built more than a 100 years ago.

Tour in Admot Yishai. The burial place of Yishai and Ruth, the forbears of King David.

Avraham Avinu neighborhood. This is the restored Jewish quarter in Hevron.

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Rubinstein suspends plans for school lessons in English

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein decided yesterday to suspend plans to have some classes taught in English until he consults with members of the Hebrew Language Academy.

Rubinstein's decision came in response to a request by academy head Prof. Ben-Asher.

The minister had approved a plan to inaugurate English-language instruction on a trial basis in 12 schools. Only a few classes would be conducted in English, such as physical education, art and music.

In their meeting yesterday, Ben-Asher told Rubinstein that the academy was concerned that even teaching only a few courses in English would set a precedent for other subjects.

Rubinstein said the ministry had no intention of harming the Hebrew language, but that students who had a poor chance of passing the English matriculation would benefit from the extra exposure in a few non-academic courses. However, Rubinstein agreed to consult with the academy before making a final decision. (Itim)

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Serbs admit to using forced labor

DAVID CHARY

SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serbs have confirmed they rounded up scores of Moslem men and put them in a forced labor camp, an International Red Cross official said yesterday.

Lisa Jones, a Red Cross spokeswoman, said a list of 111 Moslems given to her agency last week was the first Serb confirmation that a large group of Moslem men were taken to a camp in northeast Bosnia over the past few weeks.

The move to the camp at Lopare was part of a recent ethnic cleansing campaign in which about 300 Moslem women, children and elderly men have been forced from the northeast city of Bijeljina, Jones said.

The Serbs thus far have rejected Red Cross requests to visit the camp, but Jones expressed hope that submission of the list might be a first step toward outside access.

Ethnic Serbs in Bosnia have been accused of conducting the most widespread "ethnic cleansing" campaign of the war. Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly Slavic Moslems, have been forced from their homes in the 70 percent of Bosnia now controlled by Serbs.

Also yesterday, UN peacekeepers reported widespread fighting between Serbs and Moslem-led government forces. But the combat was less intense Sunday and early yesterday than last week, when government forces made significant advances.

In Sarajevo, the commander of peacekeepers in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, was seeking to meet with Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic to discuss a UN proposal to demilitarize the Sarajevo area.

Under the still-vague plan, both sides would withdraw their troops from around the city.

In Sarajevo, sniping has diminished markedly since peacekeepers began new anti-sniping patrols over the weekend. But Sarajevo authorities yesterday criticized the measures as inadequate and said the city's streetcar system, the target of sniper fire in recent weeks, would remain shut down.

Peter Kessler, a UN aid spokesman, said the UN airlift to Sarajevo might resume today. It has been suspended for nearly three weeks, except for a few hours Friday, for security



French UN anti-sniper soldiers patrol in front of Sarajevo's destroyed Parliament yesterday (AP)

reasons. UN food stocks in Sarajevo have dwindled to almost nothing, according to Kessler.

Meanwhile, a Bosnian Serb leader demanded that any territorial division of Bosnia leave Serbs in control of 64 percent of the republic. An international peace plan, which the Serbs have rejected, would leave them with 49 percent of Bosnia. The rest would go to a Moslem-Croat federation.

The new territorial demand was

likely to be immediately rejected by the international community, which had insisted the plan be accepted as is. Serbian leaders in Belgrade also are pressuring the Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan.

Bosnian Serbs, who comprised about one-third of Bosnia's population before the war and tended to live more in rural areas, claim that is the amount of territory Serbs rightfully own in Bosnia.

It is the first time Bosnian Serbs specifically said they were seeking 64 percent of the republic. (AP)

"Momcilo Krajcnik, speaker of the Bosnian Serb self-appointed assembly, said yesterday.

Bosnian Serbs, who comprised about one-third of Bosnia's population before the war and tended to live more in rural areas, claim that is the amount of territory Serbs rightfully own in Bosnia.

It is the first time Bosnian Serbs specifically said they were seeking 64 percent of the republic. (AP)

"Serbs are for peace, but peace based on Serb ownership of 64 percent of former Bosnia-Herzegovina and their right to self-determination," Momcilo Krajcnik, speaker of the Bosnian Serb self-appointed assembly, said yesterday.

Ukraine voters apathetic

KIEV (AP) — Results yesterday from the latest round of endless elections showed voter apathy continuing to frustrate efforts to fill seats in Ukraine's parliament.

Low turnout Sunday demonstrated voter weariness in regions that have been asked to vote six times this year in parliamentary and presidential elections.

Of 112 seats contested in recent parliamentary elections that wrapped up Sunday, 53 were declared void due to poor voter turnout, according to results from the Central Electoral Commission.

Now the 450-seat parliament will have just 392 deputies when it returns from recess in mid-September. Yet another round of elections to fill the remaining 58 vacant seats will be held in November.

Elections officials have declared many previous polls void and mandated reruns because of complicated electoral laws that require turnout to be over 50 percent and would-be lawmakers to secure over 50 percent of the vote.

President Leonid Kuchma, elected last month, desperately needs allies to

help push ahead with reforms to revive Ukraine. The resource-rich nation of 53 million people has been in economic decline since it won independence from the Soviet Union.

However, Kuchma failed to make significant gains in parliament, dominated by anti-reform Communists who have launched a campaign challenging Kuchma for ultimate control of the nation.

Kuchma's chief spokesman, Mikhail Dorochenko, said yesterday that Kuchma would sign a series of economic decrees beginning tomorrow that would not require parliamentary backing.

Before their summer recess last month, lawmakers voted to freeze the privatization process of state bodies until they returned.

Communists picked up four more seats in the recent elections, giving them 90, by far the largest single party in the assembly.

Independent candidates scored well, taking 50 of the 59 runoff seats that were decided. They now hold 213 seats in parliament.

Ukraine's first elected parliament convened in May.

Jackson makes pop history, marches on Stalin Square

BUDAPEST (Reuters) — Superstar Michael Jackson marched into pop-style video history in Budapest yesterday, leading hundreds of film extras dressed as Soviet soldiers.

A video being shot here features the 35-year-old entertainer as the man who liberates Eastern Europe from Soviet domination, a diversion from his world tour.

Jackson, dressed in a black jacket, black pants and a metallic-colored vest, marched on Dossa Gyorgy road, known four decades ago as Stalin Square.

He is accompanied on his visit to Hungary by his bride, Lisa Marie Presley-Jackson, daughter of Elvis Presley.

Scenes are being filmed at Budapest locations, formerly a showcase area of Hungary's old communist regime, a casualty of Eastern Europe's switch to democracy over four years ago.

It is the couple's first public appearance together since Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of the rock legend, announced last week they had wed in secret in the Dominican Republic.

During yesterday's shooting, Jackson mostly stayed hidden from the crowds under a large pink umbrella held up by one of his bodyguards to protect the star from the scorching sun.

He only appeared for minutes at a time when the cameras were rolling, to the cheers and screams of a hundred or so fans allowed near the set.

The extras, standing in their heavy uniforms for hours in 30 Centigrade (86F) sunshine, were decidedly less enthusiastic, wrapping pieces of wet cloth around their necks to cool down.

Jackson began shooting the video on Sunday on the picturesque terrace of the former royal castle that had its facade heavily decorated with red flags and a large Jackson eye painted on a huge canvas visible even a kilometre away.

But yesterday's scene was the relic of a more recent era. It was here, on Stalin Square, that May Day worker parades were held and the Hungarian army goosestepped at the anniversary of the country's World War II liberation from Nazis by Soviet troops.

Starr urged not to plow old Whitewater ground

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House called the surprise appointment of Kenneth Starr as Whitewater independent counsel "a waste of time and taxpayers' money," and urged him to pick up where the previous investigator left off.

"I hope we don't tramp over old territory time and time again," said White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta.

He said Starr does not need to reopen outgoing special counsel Robert Fiske's investigation into Whitewater-related contacts between the White House and the Treasury Department.

Congressional hearings into the Whitewater affair, which has its roots in the early business dealings of President and Mrs. Clinton in Arkansas, were held last week.

It derives its name from Whitewater Development Corp., a real estate venture the Clintons and their partners formed in the late 1970s.

The venture lost money for several years and the Clintons sold out their interest in 1992 for \$1,000. The Clintons say they invested and lost \$68,900 in Whitewater.

Questions arose last year as federal regulators began reviewing the failure of an Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, an Arkansas thrift owned by James McDougal, the Clintons' partner in Whitewater.

Specifically, the Resolution Trust Corp., a federal agency that regulates the savings and loan industry, questioned whether funds from Madison S-and-L may have been illegally diverted to pay off the political and personal debts of prominent Arkansians, including then-Gov.

Clinton.

Last fall, the RTC referred the matter to federal prosecutors, stating it appeared the Clintons may have benefited from questionable transactions at the S-and-L but accusing them of no wrongdoing.

Panetta also voiced the strongest show of support yet for Treasury Department officials who are under fire for giving Congress misleading or contradictory statements about their White House contacts.

A three-judge federal court panel removed Fiske as special counsel Friday, saying the appointment by Attorney General Janet Reno raised questions about his independence. Fiske had already determined there was no foul play in the suicide of Clinton aide Vincent Foster and reported no criminal wrongdoing in the way White House and Treasury officials sought to control public relations damage from the broader Whitewater affair.

Without criticizing the court, White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler said he disagreed that Fiske's independence was in question.

"I think it's a waste of time and taxpayers' money, but I have every confidence in Kenneth Starr," Cutler said on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

Privately, aides bristled at the appointment of Starr, a former Bush administration official who criticized Clinton's attorneys for seeking presidential immunity in an unrelated sexual harassment lawsuit.

Attorney Robert Bennett, who is representing Clinton in the harassment suit, told *The Washington Post* that Starr should decline the appointment.

"I think there is a real appearance of unfairness," Bennett said.

More than 3,000 dead in Northern Irish conflict

TWENTY-FIVE years of bloodshed in Northern Ireland have left virtually no family unscathed and no party to one of the world's most intractable conflicts untouched by the violence.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to force Britain from Northern Ireland, has engaged in an eye-for-an-eye war with its pro-British foes that has plunged new depths of atrocity.

Place names such as Greysteel, Enniskillen, and the Shankill Road resonate with memories of the province's most horrific crimes, while people in Britain and the Irish Republic have also been scarred by the violence.

The following incidents mark the lowest points during the past 25 years in what is euphemistically referred to as "The Troubles."

The greatest number of people killed in any one day were all victims of a chain of car bombs detonated in the Irish Republic on May 17, 1974.

Thirty-three civilians died and 120 were injured when three of the bombs exploded in Dublin during the rush hour and a fourth went off in the border town of Monaghan.

One girl was decapitated and the bodies of two others fused together in the heat of the Dublin blast.

"Blood was flowing down the pavement. I never believed such horror could exist," a police witness said at the time.

No-one claimed responsibility, but a spokesman for Northern Ireland's largest Protestant extremist group, the Ulster Defense Association (UDA), said he welcomed the attacks.

The atrocities in the Irish Republic were followed six months later by two horrific assaults in the central English city of Birmingham.

CAROLINE BROTHERS

BELFAST

Two IRA bombs exploded simultaneously at the Mulberry Bush pub and The Tavern in the Town, leaving 21 civilians dead and another 182 injured. The attacks are still remembered as the worst incidents of mass murder in British peacetime history.

Police arrested six men but the case of the "Birmingham Six" became notorious when an appeal court found there had been a miscarriage of justice. The men were freed after 16 years behind bars and the true killers have never been found.

The scenes of horror in England and Ireland were played out against a backdrop of continuous brutality in Northern Ireland, where the security forces and even the royal family became victims.

The queen's 79-year-old cousin Earl Mountbatten was killed with three other people when the IRA bombed a 10-meter boat at Mullaghmore, northwest Ireland, on August 27, 1979.

Hours later, in the blackest day of The Troubles for the British army, the IRA set off twin bombs at Narrow Water, near Warrenpoint, where the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic meets the sea.

A 226 kg IRA bomb concealed in a hay truck exploded and six members of the army's Parachute Regiment died. A second explosion hit a helicopter, killing 12 soldiers of the Queen's Own Regiment.

An innocent civilian was the day's 23rd victim, and Roman Catholics were targeted in a subsequent increase of revenge.

Five years later the IRA brought off its most spectacular attack outside

the British-ruled province.

In an attempt to wipe out the British cabinet, it detonated a bomb that devastated the Grand Hotel in Brighton, on England's southeast coast, where most of the government was staying for a Conservative Party conference.

The blast, which occurred in the early hours of the morning of October 12, 1984, killed five people, including member of parliament Sir Anthony Berry, and wounded more than 30 others. Four floors were ripped out of the beachfront hotel and then prime minister Margaret Thatcher was lucky to escape with her life.

Last October, in one of the most shocking attacks on civilians, the IRA bungled an attack on a fish and chip shop in the Shankill Road, heartland of Protestant Belfast.

The premature blast killed nine civilians, including one of the bombers and two girls aged nine and 13, yet missed its alleged targets — members of the Protestant extremist Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) said to be meeting next door.

Northern Ireland's Catholic community braced itself for retaliation. It came within a week when UFF gunmen raked a pub in the village of Greysteel, northwest of Belfast, with gunfire on October 30.

Two men and five women died in the Halloween night massacre after the gunmen taunted them with "trick or treat" greetings, taking savagery to sadistic extremes.

Ordinary people in Northern Ireland have been living for a quarter of a century under the daily shadow of such atrocities, waiting and hoping that a solution can be found that will stop the death toll, that has already passed 3,000, from rising. (Reuters)

Dog saved from execution by last-minute reprieve

LONDON (Reuters) — A stocky knee-high dog that his owner says is a lovable pet but police maintain is a menace to society won a last-minute reprieve from execution yesterday.

Lawyers for Harry Bates persuaded London police not to put down his dog Otis, which has spent almost two years on a canine death row under a 1991 law banning

"dangerous dogs" from public places unless they are muzzled.

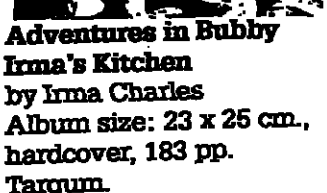
Acting London police commissioner Sir John Smith suspended the execution order pending appeals against the Dangerous Dogs Act, introduced after a series of horrific attacks on children by pit-bull terriers and other aggressive breeds.

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Paris Moslem leader decries terror threat

PARIS (Reuters) — A senior Moslem leader in France urged Islamic terrorists yesterday to withdraw a retaliation threat for a police crackdown after five French officials were killed in Algeria.

As police stepped up security and carried out random checks throughout Paris, Dalil Boudakeur, dean of the Paris Mosque, said bringing violence across the Mediterranean to France could trigger a backlash against this country's four million Moslems.

"It would be folly for Moslems to believe there could be any interest or benefit in taking violence to France," he said.

"I fear (the Algeria attack) could trigger reaction and counter-reaction, triggering for instance a kind of witch hunt...I am appealing to reason, vigilance and common sense," he said in an interview on LCI television.

The military wing of the outlawed Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has threatened to retaliate unless France frees 17 Moslems seized following last Wednesday's terrorist attack on French embassy residences in Algiers.

The attack was claimed by the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), the most radical of terrorist groups involved in violence which has claimed some 4,000 lives since the Algerian government in 1992 cancelled elections the FIS was poised to win.

French authorities took the threat seriously and brought police reinforcements to Paris to tighten security in public places such as the Champs-Élysées, railway stations, airports and the main road gateways into the capital.

Some 23 people were taken in for questioning overnight after police carried out 2,000 identity checks.

Doctors fear rising cost of Rwanda mercy mission

GILLES TREQUESSER
MUGUNGA, Zaïre

A VIRULENT strain of dysentery is spreading like wildfire among Rwandan refugees in Zaïre, threatening to push the cost of saving lives beyond the means of relief organizations, doctors say.

Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, speaking in Rwanda's capital Kigali, meanwhile, said his country had no money and would have no chance of recovery until an estimated two million refugees returned to rebuild its economy.

The contagious, bloody diarrhoea, which is proving resistant to cheaper antibiotics in use in the disease-plagued refugee camps, has replaced cholera as the main killer of Rwandans in eastern Zaïre.

"Antibiotics we use still seem efficient but the bacteria has quickly developed other levels of resistance and we have to resort to more sophisticated, and more expensive medicine," said doctor Michel Piperno of Médecins du Monde (MDM-Doctors of the World) at Mugunga camp.

"You can be using an antibiotic one day and three days later it can prove completely useless," said Col. François Merouze, head of the French military medical unit BIOFORCÉ operating at Goma airport in eastern Zaïre.

He said the drug most commonly used by health workers now in hellish camps dotting the volcanic land around Goma cost around 75 francs (\$13) per head for a five-day treatment. "We already face a cost problem so you can imagine what it would be with doses costing up to 200, 300 francs (\$35-\$52)."

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials say at least

25,000 people have died over the past three weeks in the Goma area from malnutrition, dehydration, cholera, dysentery and other diseases.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that up to one-third of the population could be infected with dysentery. UNHCR doctors fear 300,000 people might contract dysentery, an extremely virulent disease transmitted through direct contact as well as through contaminated water and food.

Merouze stressed a need to concentrate on living conditions. "Rehydration, good nutrition, latrines, all this is essential, water and soap to begin with, antibiotic is no panacea."

Unlike a cholera epidemic, which lasts on average six weeks, dysentery carried no natural immunization, he said. "It won't be immediately spectacular," he predicted. "You won't have 25,000 deaths in four weeks but it could take months even years."

But Rwandan refugees now vomiting and with diarrhoea running down their legs could face an even worse affliction.

At Mugunga, where an estimated 300,000 people are stranded, including thousands of soldiers of the defeated Hutu government, French military medics yesterday began spraying tents and patients with disinfectant.

Piperno said it was to kill body lice but did not rule out isolated cases of typhus, which causes fever, delirium, rashes and death. "We remain vigilant regarding typhus," he said.

In Kigali, at his government headquarters in the bullet-pocked Meridien hotel with no telephones or mains power, Twagiramungu said Rwanda did not expect a harvest this year or next and would be dependent on international food aid.

"We cannot pretend we are going



A US soldier talks with Rwandan refugee children at a water distribution point yesterday.

to have a stable country until we have a stable population. It is impossible. And we cannot pretend to have an economy or political situation without a population," he told a news conference.

He said the ousted government fled to Zaïre with all Rwanda's foreign and domestic exchange reserves.

"In short we don't have any foreign currency now, domestic currency also," said Twagiramungu, adding

the former government had paid salaries for loyalists in Zaïre at the end of July.

He said the Rwandan franc would have to be reprinted and introducing an entirely new currency was under consideration.

Asked whether the government could function across the whole country, he said it could not do so effectively as it had no domestic or

international communications and no telephones.

Rwanda's crisis began in April with the assassination of Hutu president Juvénal Habyarimana, the massacre of 500,000 minority Tutsis and Hutu opponents of the then government, followed by a mass exodus of civilians compounded by civil war.

Thousands of Hutus have taken refuge in Tanzania, fearing reprisals,

despite efforts to persuade them to return home.

Twagiramungu, a moderate from Rwanda's Hutu majority in a government approved by the victorious Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), said it was investigating reports of attacks by Tutsis and the RPF on returning Hutus.

"These incidents have not been systematic. If there's one case or two it isn't a government case," (Reuters)

Gaddafi offers money to families of Lockerbie victims

HUGH MUIR
NEW YORK

AN offer by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to pay two million pounds to each of the American families who lost relatives in the bombing of a jumbo jet over Lockerbie in Scotland, has been denounced as "blood money."

Intermediaries for the Libyan leader, have approached the families with offers of compensation and appeals for secret meetings.

According to a report in the respected magazine *US News and World Report*, Libya continues to deny any responsibility for the 1988 terrorist attack, which killed all 259 people on board and 11 more on the ground in the town.

But President Gaddafi has indicated he may be willing to pay the 189 American families if the gesture would ease the international sanctions on his country.

Mr Bert Ammerman, whose brother Tom was a Lockerbie victim, said he has on three occasions been asked to meet Gaddafi in Tripoli.

"It is a bribe," he said. "Gaddafi wants to show the world that he is acting in good faith and is a humanitarian. This is an odyssey that goes on and on. He tries this every time the sanctions come up for review."

Ms Aphrodite Tsairis, chairwoman of the Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 group, said she has had similar offers of "blood money".

Ms Tsairis, whose daughter Alexia was killed, added: "He's hoping to buy off the families in exchange for dropping all the charges, which is totally unacceptable. You can't buy justice."

Dr Jim Swire, who represents British relatives of Lockerbie victims said he has not received a similar offer. "We would never accept any compensation which interfered with the process of bringing those responsible to justice," he said.

Dr Swire, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, whose 23-year-old daughter Flora was killed, said the offer showed the Libyans to be naive.

"They seem to imagine they can make offers like this and not admit any guilt. There is a feeling that people in the West can easily be bought off - and too often that is right - but not in this case."

The families want Libyan men named in a 1991 indictment to be tried in Britain or America, but Gaddafi has been unwilling to release them, despite demands from the United Nations.

Last Friday, Russia, which currently holds the presidency of the UN Security Council, tried to break the impasse by suggesting a trial be held in The Hague. This won support from Libya and the Arab League - but is opposed by the other parties.

(Daily Telegraph)

Kurds seize two Finnish tourists

ANKARA (Reuters) — Kurds fighting for an independent homeland in southeast Turkey kidnapped two Finnish tourists at the weekend after halting their car at a road-block in broad daylight, local officials said yesterday.

The two are still missing, but their car was recovered along the highway between the provincial centre of Tunceli and the town of Pulumur in the largely Kurdish southeast, the officials said.

A pro-Kurdish newspaper said the Finns were detained for failing to carry a "visa" for travel in a region claimed by the military wing of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Turkish security officials gave the surnames of the two men as Hotakainen, born in 1967, and Pollari, born in 1974.

A spokeswoman for the Finnish embassy confirmed the names matched preliminary information they had but said she was awaiting further details from the Turkish foreign ministry.

The kidnapping, the first such incident this year involving foreigners, coincides with a further upswing in tensions between Turkey and dissident Kurds. More than 12,500 people have died in the PKK's 10-year-long struggle with the security forces.

Turkey launched air strikes against separatist Turkish Kurds in northern Iraq early yesterday, its fifth cross-border attack on the rebels in two weeks, a military statement said.

Planes attacked in the Sinat region, some 15 km south of the Turkish border town of Uludere, a statement from the general staff headquarters in Ankara said.

"An air operation was carried out against an armed

group of bandits preparing to cross the border to mount attacks," it said. "Initial evaluation shows a major part of the bandit group has been destroyed."

There was no estimate of casualties from yesterday's raid but the statement said 280 guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) had been killed in the four previous raids on their camps in northern Iraq since July 26.

"For today's raid we can't give a figure yet because post-operation reconnaissance is still under way," military spokesman Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu said.

In Ankara, the trial of six pro-Kurdish members of the Turkish parliament for treason moved into its fourth day. The case, in which prosecutors are seeking the death penalty, has aroused considerable concern among Turkey's Western allies.

More than 12,500 people have died in related political violence in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK launched its armed struggle for an independent state in the southeast. Since 1991 guerrillas of the PKK have seized 27 foreigners, excluding the two Finns, as part of their struggle for a independent Kurdish homeland.

In the past, the PKK forces have sought to negotiate freedom for their captives directly with foreign governments, in an apparent bid for recognition of their movement. All refused.

The pro-Kurdish daily *Ozgur Ula*, published in Istanbul, said the two were seized by the PKK's military wing to enforce a long-standing demand that tourists in the region carry a "visa" from Kurdish guerrilla forces.

It said almost two dozen foreigners were "arrested" last year by PKK forces for failing to carry the required visas in the region they claim as Kurdistan.

6,000 affected by rampant AIDS virus each day around world

YOKOHAMA (AP) — Each day, more than 6,000 people around the world catch the AIDS virus, and a looming AIDS explosion in Asia could drive the toll far higher, experts said yesterday.

While the infection rate has leveled off in Western countries, the latest figures portray an epidemic that is still raging out of control in much of the world, especially Africa and Asia. In all, the World Health Organization estimates that about 17 million people have been infected with HIV, the AIDS virus. Three million of them got it in the last year alone, more than ever before.

Sub-Saharan Africa is still the part of the world most devastated by AIDS. About 10 million infected people live there. But the virus is now spreading fastest in Asia, and many fear a sweeping epidemic here.

Dr. Michael Merson, head of the World Health Organization's AIDS program, outlined the global epidemic at the 10th International Conference on AIDS, which is being held for the first time in Asia.

"It is so urgent to act here in Asia before we get an explosion of infection. We are running out of time. There is no excuse," Merson said.

The WHO calculates that setting up basic AIDS prevention programs in Asia would cost between \$750 million and \$1.5 billion. These programs might prevent approximately 5 million new infections by the turn of the century.

The strategies to prevent a vast AIDS epidemic here are the same ones that have been proven to work in other parts of the world — teaching people how to avoid catching the virus sexually, largely through condom promotion, and treating venereal diseases, which make the virus spread much easier.

Merson said a major impediment is some governments' unwillingness to admit that AIDS is a problem.

"Denial is as strong in this region (Asia) as it's been anywhere else in

the world," Merson said. Among other reports at the meeting yesterday:

Dr. Dani Bolognesi of Duke University predicted that an AIDS vaccine will not be available for widespread testing for at least one to three years.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said an overactive immune system may hasten the damage caused by HIV. Immune-suppressing drugs that weaken this revved up response may play a role in treating AIDS.

AZT and other approved drugs for AIDS fail to significantly prolong life, because the virus evolves quickly to elude them.

A variation of HIV called subtype O is seen only in parts of West Central Africa. Because it is so genetically different, officials of the US Centers for Disease Control said some, but not all, of the tests use to screen for AIDS in the US fail to detect it.

Witness: Mystery man joined Nicole Brown, kids for ice cream

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A storekeeper located by the O.J. Simpson defense says a mystery man escorted Nicole Brown Simpson to an ice cream parlor the evening she was slashed to death. A cup of ice cream, still partially frozen, was reportedly found near the murder scene.

The man was about 1.85 m, in his late 20s, and wore a suit and tie, according to 21-year-old Bill Chang, manager of a Ben and Jerry's ice cream parlor one and a half km from Ms. Simpson's Brentwood home.

Chang said the man who came into the shop with Ms. Simpson and her children did not resemble photographs of Ronald Goldman, whose body was found near Ms. Simpson's outside her home early June 13. O.J. Simpson, the former pro football and media star, has pleaded innocent of the death of his ex-wife and Goldman.

"The only reason I remember her was, I saw there was a white couple with black children," Chang said Sunday. "That caught my eye."

A cup of ice cream — much of it still frozen — was found near the bodies shortly after midnight. *Newsweek* magazine reported in its Aug. 15 issue.

The magazine quoted unidentified defense sources as saying that the partially melted ice cream suggests that Ms. Simpson and Goldman were alive after 11 p.m., since the dessert would have melted fairly quickly in the 15-degree air.

Chang said he has spoken with the Simpson defense team, which apparently tracked him down through an ice cream cup found near the bodies, but has not spoken with police or prosecutors.

Police spokesman Arthur Holmes said he had no information about Chang's story. The district attorney's office and defense lawyer Robert Shapiro were not immediately available.

The ice cream shop is across the street from Mezzaluna — the restaurant where Goldman worked and where Ms. Simpson dined the night of June 12.

The foursome came in between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. and stayed for about 10 minutes, Chang said. The children ordered 112-gram cups of ice cream and Ms. Simpson probably ordered frozen yogurt. Chang couldn't remember the flavors.

Prosecutors have said Ms. Simpson and Goldman were probably killed between 10:15 p.m. and 11 p.m.

According to prior accounts by witnesses and police, Ms. Simpson left Mezzaluna between 8:30 and 9 p.m. and Goldman left the restaurant between 9:45 p.m. to 9:50 p.m. to take Ms. Simpson some glasses that she had left behind.

Simpson has an alibi for 11 p.m.; that's when he met the limousine that took him to the airport for a business trip to Chicago.

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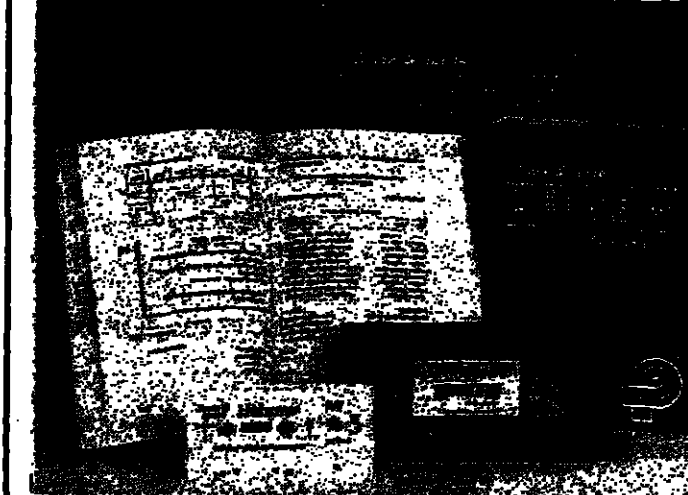
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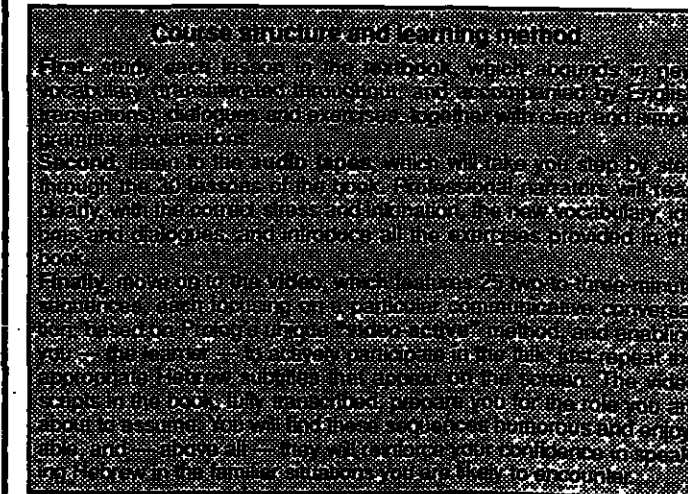
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The turning point

MUCH of what happened in the Arava and Akaba yesterday was more symbolic than substantive. The festive opening of the Israel-Jordan border in the Arava was an exciting and moving event, but the border between Israel and Jordan has been open, at least in one direction, almost since the Six Day War. Jordanians, other Arabs, and foreign nationals have been able to cross the Allenby Bridge with virtually no interruption. Only Israeli nationals could not cross, and they still cannot. For now, the only concrete change is that Israelis who have dual nationality can visit Jordan on a foreign passport. Presumably, complete freedom of movement will await further steps in the normalization process.

Similarly, there was nothing new in the visit of an Israeli prime minister to Jordan. It has been done by Rabin himself - who first met King Hussein 20 years ago, as he revealed yesterday - and by other premiers. The difference this time around was that the visit was open and official, not secret and "deniable."

Yet the media description of the day as another historic milestone in the relationship between Israel and its neighbors was not extravagant. As Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin aptly put it, the ceremonies served to shatter a psychological wall. After all, the Arab refusal to recognize Israel's legitimacy has been a major obstacle to peace. True, the first such breakthrough was effected by the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the ensuing Israel-Egypt peace treaty. But the first step in transforming the de facto peace with Jordan into a full-fledged, official relationship between the two countries has special meaning.

Jordan is not only the country whose border with Israel is the longest and the closest to Israel's population centers. It is a country whose population is essentially Palestinian. As Hussein himself once said, "Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan." And while the Palestinian problem is by

no means the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and peace with the Palestinians in no way guarantees peace with other Arab regimes, it is with Palestinians that Israel must coexist in close proximity.

It is fashionable today to make a distinction between Jordanian Arabs and Palestinian Arabs. Even Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has made a point of contradicting what Hussein used to say and stressing that "Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine." But fashionable slogans, designed to justify the recognition of the PLO, do not change political and demographic realities. What Rabin once wrote in his memoirs, and what the Labor Party used to hold as an article of faith, is still true: there are two peoples, one Arab and one Jewish, living in the area of the original British Mandate of Palestine, which included both banks of the Jordan. To split this Arab people into two nations is an artificial maneuver designed to undermine Israel.

If there is a virtual wall-to-wall consensus in Israel on the Washington Declaration and the handshake with Hussein, it is not because the prospective peace with Jordan is seen as complementary to the agreement with the PLO, but because it is hoped that Hussein will replace Arafat as Israel's peace partner. Leaving aside the obvious differences in the personalities involved, the vast majority of Israelis would rather deal with the Hashemites, whose center of gravity is in Amman, than with the PLO, whose political center is in Jerusalem and whose goal is not to live with Israel, but to replace it.

Indeed, Rabin has much to be pleased with today. For the first time since Labor rose to power, he has not only the world community but the whole nation behind him. This is because in dealing with Jordan he has lived up to what he and his party have traditionally stood for. If he wishes to continue enjoying such support, he would do well to remember Labor's traditional principles on the Golan when he turns to negotiate with Syria.

Balkan bluffs

YUGOSLAVIA'S President Slobodan Milosevic is not the first politician to have nurtured violent radicals in support of some supposedly patriotic agenda. Neither is he the first to discover that such useful assets can grow up to be dangerous liabilities.

Milosevic incited Serbs in Bosnia to rebel against the declaration of independence by the multi-ethnic state, under the banner of a Greater Serbia. They obliged, with devastating consequences for the new country. The fervent nationalism of Belgrade's proteges apparently has outgrown its usefulness to Milosevic. Much more useful now than the war he encouraged would be for Bosnian Serbia to accept an international peace plan so as to save Yugoslavia proper from another winter of crippling UN sanctions.

Because Milosevic's *volte face* fits conveniently into the foreign proposals for ending the Bosnia war, his blockade of his former allies has been widely welcomed as the first effective action against Bosnian Serb intransigence. It may in fact just be the herald of a real, no-holds-barred fight to the finish in Bosnia. Such a war is likely to run out of steam if Belgrade's tilt in favor of the peace plan could be guaranteed to hold.

That is a very big "if." Milosevic is as slippery a customer as the Byzantine Balkans area has ever produced. His similar condemnation of the Bosnian Serbs for their rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan last year proved to be a sham with an

early Use By date. But so far, the Milosevic embargo looks convincingly sincere. The usually-packed border roads between Yugoslavia and Bosnia have been empty of trucks. The controlled media in Belgrade have swung into criticism of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. Even *Politika*, the "Milosevic daily," castigated Karadzic: "Once peace comes, the people cannot be led by the men who bombarded civilians in Sarajevo to the world's revulsion."

An unknown part of the Serb-Serb equation is the extremely powerful and effective Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic, who has more than once-twisted Milosevic's arm by decisive and dangerous actions on the ground, which no patriotic Serb in Belgrade could fail to support. But however contrived or temporary it may prove to be, the Milosevic blockade is actually offering Bosnian Serbs a face-saving formula to reverse their two rejections of the international plan.

With or without Belgrade, the Bosnian Serbs must realize they have conquered all they are going to conquer, and more than they can expect to keep either by peace or by war. It is time to quit. The confidence of the Muslims and Croats is growing and so is foreign support for them as the parties that accepted the peace plan. The Bosnian Serbs would do well to heed a comment made by Bosnia's UN ambassador earlier this month: "If there is no real peace, then there may as well be a real war."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JORDAN IS PALESTINE

Sir, - Whether Mr. Peres likes it or not, Jordan was founded entirely on Palestinian soil. To say Jordan is not Palestine could only be justified if it was said that Jordan is Eastern Israel. The ceding of Eastern Palestine was a huge loss to the Jewish people and deserves to be recognized as such. To lose, say, 10 or 20 percent of the territory to the Arabs of Palestine would be one thing, but to lose some 75 percent is unjust.

The aim of the Jordan is Palestine thesis is not to obtain territory east of the Jordan (although there is plenty of justification for this). Nor does it

want to replace King Hussein. It simply establishes a fair bargaining position for the first settlement which is now hopefully to hand.

Whatever the final territorial settlement is, the Arabs will end up with about 80 percent of the area designated to be a Jewish homeland.

If successive governments had put these facts forward, the coming problem of Jerusalem and the refugees would have been seen from a different perspective. We have only ourselves to blame for this and now we will pay the price. Redbridge, England. URI RABIN

TOUR BOYCOTT

Sir, - American Jewish Congress Tours for Americans in Israel, which restricts participants to a trip to Jordan to "only holders of valid US passports" is a blatant submission to the Arab boycott. Suppose Jordan would have said, "only white people" are allowed on these tours... would the American Jewish Congress agree to that?

And although "business is business," perhaps *The Jerusalem Post* should not accept ads for tours which discriminate against Israeli citizens. How can we ask others not to observe the Arab boycott when Jewish organizations are guilty of doing the same? LILA CLAIR

Jerusalem. Re: amana.

NO RELIEF

Sir, - How typical of the noble Americans, Israelis and the rest of the Western world to lock the stable door after the horse has bolted.

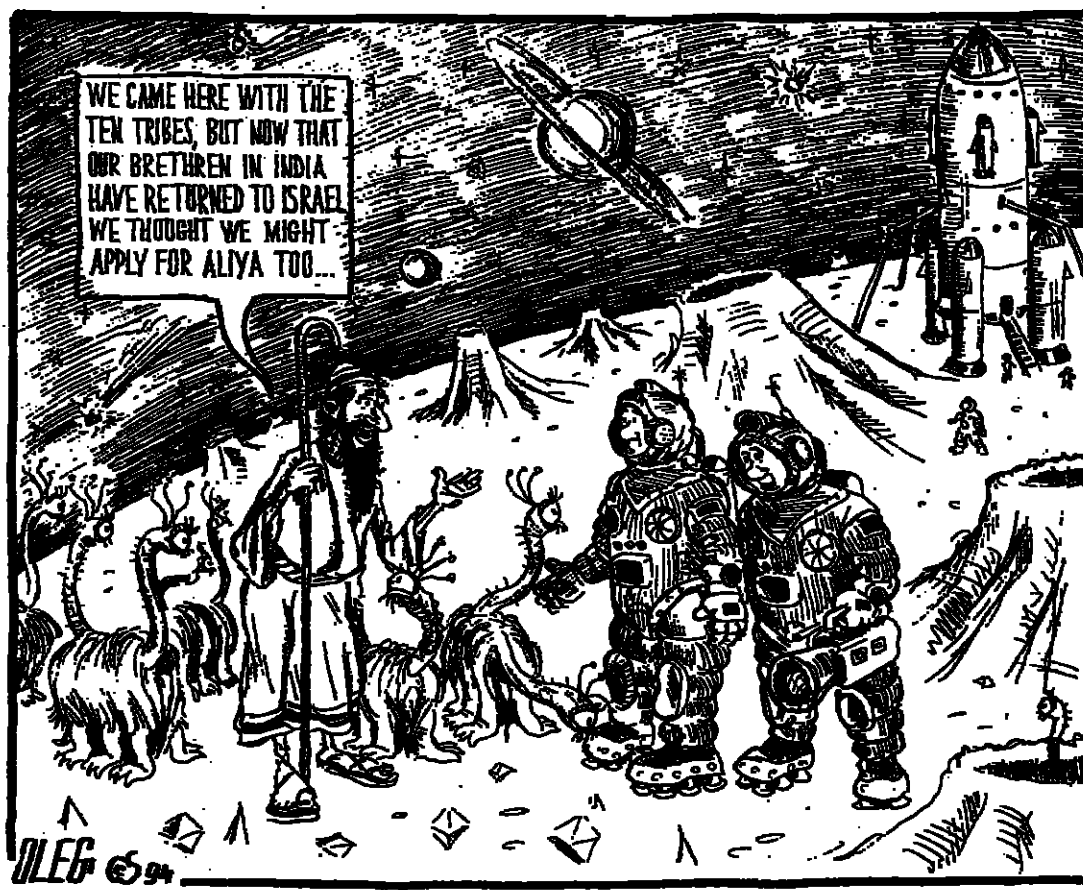
To what horrors does humanity have to sink (the Rwandans this time) before relief action is taken?

Where were the UN and the other relief organizations back in April? Why didn't they start to get their act together and prepare for the inevitable - one did not have to be an expert to foresee what lay ahead.

Surely, by now we have learned from history that prevention is better than cure?

Or can it be that it is all some clever PR ploy under which after everyone has seen the sick and starving die by the thousands on our TV screens, world leaders become universal heroes by sending aid under their country's national flag? RENEE SINGER

Jerusalem. Re: amana.



Syria can wait

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

WITH King Hussein set on the path towards peace with Israel, US and Israeli officials continue the search for "comprehensive peace." Next on the agenda is Syria. Indeed, the contours of an Israeli-Syrian deal already are clear and follow the Egyptian precedent: full, but staged Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic relations, a Syrian promise of normalization, a limited American military presence on the Golan Heights complemented by other security arrangements still to be negotiated. It is an illusion to believe that any other package presently is available.

Yet an evaluation of this proposed peace package leads to the conclusion that on such terms, Israel cannot afford a peace treaty with Syria. Under the circumstances the status quo is preferable.

The attainment of comprehensive Mideast peace - a resolution of all regional disputes and the ending of Arab-Israeli armed conflict - is the justification proffered for painful compromise with Syria. But "comprehensive peace" in this region is a mirage. At best, Israel can hope to reach accommodation with its Arab neighbors. No Arab state enjoys a comprehensive peace with all its neighbors. The use of force is still a policy option for many regimes in this region, and all Arab countries have security concerns of some sort. Regional leaders manage state security by developing and maintaining a military capacity and by manipulating shifting diplomatic and military alliances. Thus, any Israeli-Arab agreement that does not take into consideration the possibility of future use of force is strategically flawed and therefore dangerous. The emerging Israeli-Syrian deal involving full withdrawal from the Golan is most alarming precisely because it appears to ignore this reality.

An Israeli embassy in Damascus would have important political and symbolic value. But considering the volatility of the Middle East, the gain of an embassy is not worth the loss of the Golan and its three military advantages: deterrence, defense and early warning. The proximity to Damascus of IDF forces on the Golan provides for deterrence. The topography of the Golan allows for the best defense against an armored Syrian thrust toward Israel. And Israeli intelligence facilities stationed on the Golan peer deep into Syria and provide strategic early warning of Syrian military movements. The advantages the Golan confers on Israel explain the lack of hostility

on this front since 1974.

It is obvious that the Sinai security arrangements (a 200-km. demilitarized buffer area) cannot be emulated on the Golan (which is 24 km. wide and can be traversed by tank in a matter of hours). This is exactly why Israel proposes additional security measures, such as drastic cuts in the Syrian order of battle, demilitarized zones deep into Syrian territory (including Damascus) and an American

If the price of a treaty with Syria is too high, the status quo may prove less costly than many fear.

force on the Golan. But these Israeli demands are totally unacceptable to Syria, which has serious security concerns versus Turkey and Iraq and whose leadership depends on the considerable forces stationed around Damascus to preserve the regime.

Moreover, the deployment of US troops in the area or the imposition of restrictions on the Syrian military are not good substitutes for Israeli defenses on the Golan because they require Israel to rely on the goodwill of other actors - a dubious proposition in this Hobbesian world where states respect their commitments only as long as their interests in doing so persist.

An evacuation of the Golan by Israel will create a situation of strategic vulnerability which invites aggression. Indeed, the assumption that Syria will keep its part of the bargain under any circumstances is naive and ignores the long record of broken Arab promises to each other and to Israel, as well as the fact that Syria has been Israel's most militant and vitriolic regional enemy.

A treaty violation is possible particularly if authoritarian Syria reverts to the unstable pre-Assad period, when military coups were frequent and confrontation with Israel was a tool for legitimizing the regime.

If the price of a peace treaty with Syria is too high, maintenance of the status quo may prove less costly than many fear. With the loss of his superpower patron, Assad is not able to sustain a full-

scale war against Israel. The recent Palestinian and Jordanian undertakings with Israel indicate that Syria can no longer veto diplomatic developments in the Arab-Israeli arena, even with regard to Arab weak actors.

As for the economic dividend promised to us by our leaders in the wake of comprehensive peace involving Syria, well, the benefits appear to have been exaggerated. Many economists point out that the state of Arab economies do not provide for an appropriate outlet for Israeli exports. An improvement in the political atmosphere is only one of the necessary conditions for foreign investment. Without better market opportunities a drastic increase in foreign investment is unlikely. The Arab oil-rich states have so far failed to bankroll the emerging Palestinian entity and it is unlikely that they will change this pattern in the near future. Furthermore, any expectations for serious cuts in defense expenditures are ill-founded. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel did not lead to such an outcome. The continuous security concerns of Arab states stemming from threats outside the Arab-Israeli arena will similarly lead Mideast governments to preserve high defense budgets.

Since Assad can use force to raise the cost to Israel of maintaining the status quo, the ability of the Israeli public to bear pain and persevere is critical. Israeli society has become war-weary. But in contrast to its aversion for policing Palestinian-inhabited regions, public opinion polls show that a vast majority of Israelis prefer to keep the Golan, even at a price.

Furthermore, Israel can enhance its deterrent power versus Syria by strengthening its relations with Turkey, an old-new and key Middle East player, that shares many strategic interests with Jerusalem. Israel can also signal greater determination to resist Syrian pressures by hardening its military posture in Lebanon.

Power politics, not misguided liberal notions and Wilsonian dreams, must be our conceptual prism for survival and Israel's modus operandi in seeking tension reduction with Arab countries. There is insufficient reason to solicitously court a weakened and unrepentant Syria, which joined the peace process primarily to please Washington. Certainly not at the going price.

The writer is associate professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and director of its Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies.

POSTSCRIPTS

A LONDON couple who fell in love after both had sex change operations have appealed to Queen Elizabeth to support their campaign to marry under their new identities.

Although they are legally allowed to marry, Janeen Newham and David Willis would have to assume their old genders for the wedding ceremony as British statute does not recognize sex-change surgery.

Newham, 47, would be addressed as the groom, not the bride, because she was born a man. Willis would be asked whether he wanted to take his girlfriend as his lawfully wedded husband.

The couple, who met five years ago just before Newham's operation to become a woman, said they appealed in desperation to the queen to take up their case.

"We want to be married in a dignified manner, as is considered for non-transsexuals," said the letter to the queen, written by Janeen, who as John Newham worked as a trowler captain. "We seek only that we address each other in sincerity. I to take David as my husband and he to take me as his wife."

NO LESS than 1,322 guitarists strummed a single song for more than one hour in a mass jam session in Vancouver that set two new records.

They strummed the three chords of the Canadian rock anthem "Taking Care of Business" for 68 minutes 40 seconds.

It was the greatest number of guitarists ever to play together at one time and never before had the same song been played for so long.

The marathon jam session, which opened a music trade show, drew guitarists aged between seven to 59. They were led by Randy Bachman, former guitarist of the groups Bachman Turner Overdrive and The Guess Who.

The largest previous gathering of guitarists was 545 who played "Hang On Sloopy" for 45 minutes in Columbus, Ohio. The previous record for playing time was 65 minutes of "Shake, Rattle and Roll" played by 532 guitarists in Santa Cruz, Calif. No one knows why.

His snappy response was: "I'm getting tired of bleeding so you can walk tall on the sidewalks of New York."

WOE

AN AMATEUR historian spent 30 years tracing his family tree, only to be told he was studying the wrong one because he had been adopted.

"It was 30 years work for nothing," said British restaurant owner Ian Lewis.

On his quest, Lewis, 43, travelled all over Britain and talked to 2,000 relatives. He even planned to write a book about how his great grandfather left to seek his fortune in Russia and how his grandfather was expelled after the revolution and returned to Britain.

But his search ended when his cousin's wife told him he was adopted and he then traced the adoption papers. Both his real and adoptive parents are now dead.

Despite the disappointment, Lewis said he had not lost his taste for family trees. "I will have to start again, but I am determined to carry on," he said.

THE VATICAN understands the Jewish State a lot better since we established relations. This is obvious from the Radio Vaticana program guide we got recently. It was addressed to: "Merkas Ashaf, c/o Jerusalem Post, etc."

All we can promise the Vatican is that we'll hold onto the guide until the next time Yasser Arafat pops by our office.

No need to approve

EFFRAIM INBAR

THE Clinton administration, preparing for a possible invasion of Haiti, went to the UN to ask for prior approval. It got it. Seems like a simple act of international propriety. On the face of it, Clinton is merely aping what George Bush did before the Gulf war.

But Iraq is very different from Haiti. Iraq is far away. It had a formidable army that threatened serious fighting. The United States needed allies to share the perhaps considerable burdens ahead. It needed Saudi territory to stage a counterinvasion. To induce others to sign up, it needed international cover.

Cover, leverage, allies: In Haiti, none of this applies. It is a pushover perched on a tiny nearby island. The invasion will be virtually unopposed. There is no need for allied soldiers or foreign staging rights.

In fact, the appropriate analogy is not Bush in Iraq but Bush in Panama. Bush determined that Noriega was a threat to American interests. Confident that he had right, power and American interests on his side, he did the job and asked questions later.

The Clinton administration is deeply uncertain about right, dis-

The Clinton foreign policy... has no conception of the prerogatives of power

trustful of American power and disoriented regarding American interests. It is, accordingly, the first administration in American history to ask United Nations approval for intervention in our own hemisphere.

And Clinton did not just ask permission. He already dealt away American interests in order to get it. In a deal largely unremarked, the United Nations last month quietly approved Russian "peacekeeping" troops in formerly Soviet Georgia. Russia had threatened to veto UN approval of a Haiti invasion if refused a free hand in its former colony.

These are the same Russian troops that stirred up the Georgian trouble they are now charged with pacifying. Their role is less peacekeeping than restoring a small piece of the old Soviet empire and signaling Russia's intent to reestablish hegemony over the rest.

We come here to the root weakness of the Clinton foreign policy: It has no conception of the prerogatives of power. It appreciates the obligations of power - in Rwanda, for example, the world cries out for someone to "do something" and Clinton (rightly) rushes in. But with obligations come prerogatives. And to these prerogatives the administration is entirely dead.

It is the prerogative of a great power to do what it must to secure its interests without asking. China sends warships to secure a South China Sea oil patch it claims from Vietnam. Deng Xiaoping does not ask for US approval. Yet Clinton, absurdly, seeks Deng's approval to act in Haiti.

Moreover, unlike China, the US is a global superpower. It shoulders unique responsibilities. It is not a country like any other. Yet the Clinton administration, running round the UN gathering signatures for the Haitian send-off, acts as if it is.

Such thinking comes naturally to the lawyers who make up the Clinton team. After all, here everyone is equal under the law.

But the international system is utterly different. In that arena, the players are radically unequal, the law is but a piece of paper, and there is no outside source of enforcement. In fact, the only enforcer is the big guy on the block, the superpower, which in this post-Cold War era happens to be the US.

It is America who takes the risk to restore order when disorder arises. It is the US who bears the brunt of war to secure the oil supplies of Japan and Germany and the world's other free riders.

The US is not an ordinary player. It is the world's fireman, on whose exertions the rest of the world rides free. In return, the US is entitled to certain prerogatives. When its interests are threatened, it has well earned - from those who benefit from our actions elsewhere - room to maneuver. A nation with such global burdens both needs and is owed the prerogative to act expeditiously and independently to secure its own interests.

A great power does not ask for such prerogatives. (Once you've asked for it, you've forfeited it.) A great power feels it, asserts it, exercises it. Yet this administration does not move unless the UN nods. Micronesia applauds, and a dozen allies hold our hand.

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Still rocking after all these years

WASHINGTON

THE burning music question of the year has been answered: The Rolling Stones still can crank out high-octane rock 'n' roll.

Voodoo Lounge, their new album, offers strong evidence that the band has recaptured the spirit and vigor that once made it the world's greatest rock band.

Launching their current world tour recently, they proved they can still pull off a vigorous, varied two-and-a-half-hour stage show as well.

On opening night of the "Voodoo Lounge" world tour this month, the Stones effortlessly wrapped the old around the new, a job made easier by the fact that the new material draws so heavily on the standards of yesteryear.

"You're always nervous the first night," joked Mick Jagger after four blistering songs into the opening set. "But you can't be a virgin forever."

A sold-out crowd, many in their 30s and 40s wearing faded T-shirts symbolizing past tours, packed Robert F. Kennedy Stadium for the kickoff performance of the 43-city world tour.

While the Stones have been playing the same material for years, the band somehow made it seem fresh.

Most of the crowd was on its feet all night from the youthful abandon of "All Down the Line" to the grungy cheekiness of "Honky Tonk Woman" to the power-chording of "Start Me Up."

"Not bad for a bunch of old farts," quipped Jagger, 51, midway through the set.

Indeed, Jagger and guitarist Keith Richards, who will be 51



Mick Jagger belts it out during the opening show in Washington of the band's 43-city 'Voodoo Tour.' (AP/Planet Photo)

this year, were relaxed and confident enough to joke about their age from time to time. Nothing else they did on stage attracted attention to it.

From the start, the Stones signaled that there would be bows aplenty to the past, and that the songs would be played with the urgency, venom and strength that made them so breathtaking the first time around.

They opened with "Not Fade Away," a hit for both Buddy Holly and the Stones more than 30 years ago.

As Jagger belted out the eponymous chorus with defiance, Keith Richards was squeezing sparks out of his guitar against a backdrop of

flames shooting out of what looked like refinery towers on either side of the stage.

Out of a 27-song set there were just seven songs from Voodoo, but nearly every cut was in lockstep with a forerunner.

For example, the energetic "You Got Me Rocking" led into the hard-driving "Rocks Off," from Exile on Main Street, complete with some soaring, screaming work from The New West Horns and a stirring bit of saxophone from Bobby Keys, the band's longtime road man.

"Rocks Off," in turn, segued nicely into a new cut, "Sparks Will Fly."

And after the slow, melancholy

ballad "Out of Tears," from the new recording, the Stones lightened the mood right up with the who-cares, youthful abandon of "All Down the Line."

To be sure, the Stones' classic hits were the mainstays of the show; the band clearly both relaxed and picked up confidence with a harsh, relentless rendering of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" on the ninth song of the set.

The Stones used this number to show off their legendary strengths - Jagger's strutting, prancing and preening, Richards' guitar licks, the unfappable Charlie Watts's menacing, insistent drumming.

Darryl Jones, who has replaced Bill Wyman on bass, looked per-

fectly comfortable, jamming and shimmying with rhythm guitarist Ron Wood whenever Richards wasn't doing the same thing.

And the final, panting sprint to the finish was like a wildfire roaring down Memory Lane: "Monkee Man," complete with a giraffe-like stilt-walker; "It's Only Rock 'n Roll (But I Like It)," which featured a few Chuck Berry-esque guitar riffs from Richards; "Street Fighting Man," and "Brown Sugar."

At encore time, "Jumpin' Jack Flash" was extended by three or four minutes into an extended jam featuring Richards' ker-chang-ker-chang chords.

(AP)

African music - a success story

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

AFRICAN success stories may be rare on the evening news, but in the realm of popular music the continent is beginning to find its place.

Senegalese singer-songwriter Youssou N'Dour has long been the darling of beat enthusiasts. In 1986 he contributed prominently to Peter Gabriel's hit album *So*.

Gabriel collaborated on *Shaking the Tree* for N'Dour's international debut, and in 1988 he was the one Third World artist to get star billing in Amnesty International's Human Rights Now! world tour along with Gabriel, Sting and Bruce Springsteen.

A year and a half ago, his album *Eyes Open* (NMC) launched Spike Lee's Four Horsemen and a Mule label under the Sony umbrella. And now finally this year his album *The Guide* (Wommat) (NMC) has sold over two million copies, launched by the hit single "7 Seconds," a duet with Neneh Cherry.

Youssou N'Dour has definitely arrived. What makes his success particularly interesting is the fact that most of the album features songs sung in his native Wolof dialect. This is a big moment for anyone who has been rooting for a debut in the English-language pop music monopoly.

Nonetheless it must be noted that "7 Seconds," an enigmatic and very beautiful mood piece that features plenty of synthesizers and violin solos, is primarily in English and French. Cherry, who is herself of mixed African and Swedish descent, adds a great deal with her heartfelt vocal.

In fact, her line: "And when a child is born into this world it has no concept of the tone the skin is living in" is the song's best.

The album's second likely hit, Dylan's "Chimes of Freedom," is also in English. But there are still 13 songs which, though subtly internationalized by the likes of Branford Marsalis on saxophone, are unmistakably African statements.

But how good is it? N'Dour is

not the most moving singer I've ever heard. In fact it took three or four listens before it got under my skin. It is hard to describe the feeling. The album's third cut, for example, is a memorable N'Dour composition called "Without A Smile." It has a keen and sad hook so strong that I found myself humming it, although it has no easily identifiable lyric.

It was only after the song had entered my bloodstream that I checked out the translation supplied. It turns out to be a song about African drought. A man who can get two million buyers from Japan to Finland to invest in learning about that tragedy deserves respect.

There is plenty of lively and sophisticated music on this album, and its success is surely indicative of some sort of wind of pop cultural change. But don't expect it to live up to the mysterious standard of "7 Seconds."

If you are attracted to African music I recommend Electric and Acoustic Mali (NMC) from the Hemisphere world music series. It has a vibrant and often ecstatic sound that is far more magical than the somewhat prosaic sounds of Senegal.

And if you are interested in the Hollywood version of African music, the soundtrack of Disney's *The Lion King* (Hed Arzi) is not bad at all. Elton John and Tim Rice have teamed up on a string of songs that are, in their own somewhat glitzy way, quite as memorable as the classics from *Cinderella* and *Pinochio*.

But it is the South African choral arrangements featuring the Committed Artists Choir and Friends which really bring the music to life. If you loved the movie you might like to keep the best-selling album around, although one should be warned that there are really only five songs on the album. Three tracks are repeats of "Circle of Life," "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" performed by Elton John.

A moustache that had a personality of its own

ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN
NEW YORK

THE art world is saying hello again to Salvador Dali and rediscovering not only his art but his surrealist elongated moustache and the death-defying tricks it could perform.

While tens of thousands of people are flocking to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see a collection of early Dali works featuring his famous melting watches, photography lovers have a chance again to buy a classic book put together by Dali and his good friend, photographer Philippe Halsman.

It is called *Dali's Moustache*. The pocket-sized 128-page book published in 1954 has been out of print for 40 years, slowly gaining a fame denied it on its first printing and earning a cult following that saw collectors pay \$100 and more for a prized copy.

Now it is back in print published in English by the French art-book firm Flammarion and distributed by Abbeville Press.

The book seeks to prove that the moustache is the message, and it shows Dali's famous lovingly waxed handlebar moustache in dozens of different situations, twisted and turned hither and yon - pierced with flowers to celebrate Mother's Day, erupting into an atomic explosion.

Among the more famous photographs in the book is Dali as the Mona Lisa, moustache racing up the face until it reaches his bulging eyes, his hands clutching two \$10,000 bills and all this superimposed over Leonardo's body and background.

The pose was thought of by the two men in response to the following question put to Dali: "What do you see when you look at the Mona Lisa?" The response was a joke on Dali's penchant for money.

Another photo shows his moustache twisted into dollar signs in response to the question: "Why do you paint?" Underneath, the caption reads, "Because I love art."

"Philippe and Dali were on the same wavelength. Philippe always understood him even when he said something stupid," Halsman's widow Yvonne said in a recent interview.

Unlike Dali, whose reputation



Salvador's curled trademark was so famous that its owner helped to produce its very own book, 'Dali's Moustache.' (Unipix)

has soared and sunk depending on the public mood and the time of day on one of those melting watches, Halsman's reputation remains constant - one of the century's great portrait photographers and innovators.

To think of Einstein, Marilyn Monroe, Churchill and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor deep in their unhappy exile is to think of images caught by Halsman's lens.

His Churchill portrait is the one in which the British leader's back is turned to the camera, only his hat, overcoat and pear-shaped girth visible as he sits, the lion in the winter of his life, viewing his vast family estate.

His Monroe is the classic image of the young starlet exuding sexuality in a tight dress as she stands crunched up against a door in her tiny apartment.

"Philippe discovered Marilyn Monroe. He was sent by Life magazine in 1949 to photograph eight starlets and he singled her out of the group."

She responded best to his call for them to pose as if they were being kissed by an invisible lover," Mrs. Halsman said.

"When he came back he said, 'There is a girl I would like to photograph.'"

His picture of her helped launch her career and become one of Halsman's most famous covers photos for Life for whom he photographed a record 101 covers.

But Monroe was a serious subject for Halsman. Dali was sheer fun, a chance to photograph something preposterous.

In a "postface" to his tiny book, Halsman wrote, "There were times when deeds were less important than whiskers.... With the death of Kaiser Wilhelm, Hitler and Stalin, with Chaplin's disappearance from the screen, the era of great moustaches seems to have come to an end. A desolate, whiskerless vacuum followed."

"But when, last November, I saw that Dali's moustache had suddenly reached his eyebrows, I realized that Dali had stepped into this vacuum. This great painter had become the great moustache of our times."

The book leaves one longing not for more Dali but for more Halsman, and Mrs. Halsman says she would like to publish a book of his "unknown photographs," including some never published photographs of Dali's moustache.

One can picture Dali's moustache nodding in agreement. (Reuters)

Still the ultimate love tale

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

ROMEO AND JULIET

By William Shakespeare. Arabic, Hussein Jamal Baragot, Hebrew, Elmad Manor. Co-directors, Eran Baniel and Fadi Awad. Set, Eli Sinai. Costumes, Michael Laor. Music, Sa'ad Morad. Hebrew title, *Romeo VeJulia*. Co-production of the El-Kasaba and Jerusalem Kalm theaters. At the Electric Corp.'s old power station, Jerusalem.

Romeo Halifa Natar
Juliet Orna Katz
Mercutio Mohammed Bakhti
Nurse Aliza Rosen
The Friar Bassam Zomrot

FOR all the political aspirations of this production, it owes its strongest impact to achievement at the artistic level.

If the *mise en scene*, as is to be expected with dual direction, is a mixed bag, and the playing is unequal, Eli Sinai's set is the catalyst that injects vision and fantasy.

Splitting the rectangular void of the Israel Electric Corporation's former hangar lengthwise to give an acting floor space of enormous dimensions, he has designed an austere, spare scenscape.

The stark, multilevel scaffold-

ing, catwalks, spindly stairs and scattered balconies allow full rein to the dynamic of the drama and the volatile combat choreography by Anton Wilkin.

In the latter, the El Kasaba actors surpass with elastic, lissome movement that contrasts with the more solid efforts of the Khan. In that and other respects, the two companies do not jell.

This stands out particularly in the commedia dell'arte episode, inserted into the Ball scene.

Primarily, this Arabic-Hebrew spectacle was conjured up as a political parable and blessing with which to seal the peace process. In fact, it comes over most strongly as a saga of young love.

Hence a sulky, romantic Romeo, a mettlesome, kittenish Juliet (the balcony scene is especially moving), an optimistic Friar, a fulminating father, a mercurial Mercutio and a bawdy, chatterbox nurse all emphasize the lyric-romantic rather than the political aspect of the play.

It is tenderness, impetuosity and the fire of youth that impress in the end.

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TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

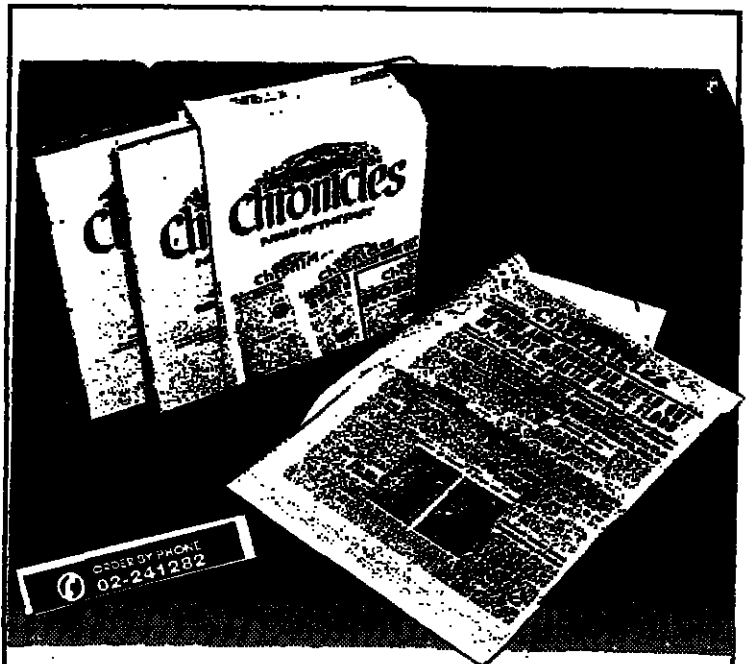
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	4	O.S.T.	LION KING
#2	2	HIT MAN 1994	VOLUME 5
#3	1	DAVID BROZA	MASSADA
#4	14	SHLOMO ARTZI	COMPLETE COLLECTION
#5	19	VARIOUS ARTISTS	GLORY OF GERSHWIN
#6	11	AVIV GEPFEN	III
#7	9	ACHOAM NINI	NINI AND DOR
#8	6	ZIKNE TZAFAT	ZIKNE TZAFAT
#9	8	TOP POP 1994	VOLUME 4
#10	5	GYPSEY KINGS	BEST OF
#11	4	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#12	3	LEONARD COHEN	LIVE
#13	1	NOW 28	COMPLATION
#14	18	EFOH HAYELED	DEVILS
#15	10	ETHNIK	YOU

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

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A barefoot spin through the classics

DANCE REVIEW

DORA SOWDEN

HIGH in the hills of Malha, above the Jerusalem Mall, dancer-choreographer Yaron Margolin presented an end-of-year performance in his studio on July 31 before a packed house.

All the choreography was Margolin's, and as interesting as the proficiency of the dancers was the style of Margolin's dance methods and the dance making.

Margolin does not hesitate to use classical steps barefoot, though he is a modern dance creator. Inclined to overuse whirling

spins, his designs are never mere movement - they convey meaning. His preference is for romantic and classical music instead of the bump and thump of pop varieties, and this too is refreshing.

The program consisted mainly of solos, an occasional duet (one of them with apparent lesbian connotations which were quite unnecessary) and a trio of two women


and a young man reminiscent of the famous 15th-century picture of Guglielmo Ebreo, the Jewish dance master, and two of his students - but all very much in the modern spirit.

The climax was an interpretation of two of Violetta's arias in Verdi's *La Traviata* done by two different dancers. The dancers were Yael Hamarati, Gal Chen, Limor Shamam, Dana Ben-Ari, Ran Mazar, Orli Cohen, Noa Shimon, Dalit Ben-Meir and Shuki Shukrin.

FIBI opens branch at new border crossing with Jordan

SOURCE: BANK LEUNG

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New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	3192.4	+1.44
DJ Transport	1891.4	+0.22
DJ Comp	1303.9	+0.43
NYSE Composite	2643.3	+0.21
NYSE Transp	1891.4	+0.22
NYSE Comp	1303.9	+0.43
S&P 500	2643.3	+0.21
NASDAQ	407.7	+0.18
AMEX	407.7	+0.18

Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3192.4	+1.44
S&P 500	2643.3	+0.21
NASDAQ	407.7	+0.18
AMEX	407.7	+0.18

Israeli stocks in NY

Index	Last	Change
NYSE AMEX	407.7	+0.18
NYSE Composite	2643.3	+0.21
NYSE Transp	1891.4	+0.22
NYSE Comp	1303.9	+0.43
S&P 500	2643.3	+0.21
NASDAQ	407.7	+0.18
AMEX	407.7	+0.18

Dollar cross rates (US)

Index	Last	Change
JPY	109.15	+0.05
GBP	1.65	+0.01
CHF	1.45	+0.01
DEM	1.35	+0.01
FRF	6.55	+0.01
ITL	1.35	+0.01
ESP	165.00	+0.01
SEK	8.00	+0.01
NOK	4.80	+0.01
DKK	6.46	+0.01
SGD	1.35	+0.01
HKD	7.75	+0.01
TWD	20.00	+0.01
THB	30.00	+0.01
MYR	3.80	+0.01
PHP	48.00	+0.01
INR	45.00	+0.01
SGD	1.35	+0.01
HKD	7.75	+0.01
TWD	20.00	+0.01
THB	30.00	+0.01
MYR	3.80	+0.01
PHP	48.00	+0.01
INR	45.00	+0.01

Labor rates

Index	Last	Change
JPY	109.15	+0.05
GBP	1.65	+0.01
CHF	1.45	+0.01
DEM	1.35	+0.01
FRF	6.55	+0.01
ITL	1.35	+0.01
ESP	165.00	+0.01
SEK	8.00	+0.01
NOK	4.80	+0.01
DKK	6.46	+0.01
SGD	1.35	+0.01
HKD	7.75	+0.01
TWD	20.00	+0.01
THB	30.00	+0.01
MYR	3.80	+0.01
PHP	48.00	+0.01
INR	45.00	+0.01

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INFLATION

Index	Last	Change
US Commodities	100.00	+0.01
London Commodities	100.00	+0.01
Spot market metals (US)	100.00	+0.01
New York metal futures	100.00	+0.01
London metal futures	100.00	+0.01

New York metal futures

er: spot	5.12	-0.03
New York metal futures		
	Last	Change
id (Aug)	396.7	-0.4
	5.13	-0.04
London (Sep.)	162.8	+0.1
in-grade copper (Sep)	1.068	-0.0175
London metal futures		
	Last	Change
d AM fu.	377.7	-0.8
d PM fu.	377.6	-0.8
er fu.	381.2	-0.5
ium PM fu.	411.8	-2.25
* Cash in parentheses signifies contract exp. date *		
Spot metal sellings are from spotaneously		
AM and PM (see AM others are evening quotes)		
Source: Commodity Trading Ltd. (Data 8-AUG-84)		

Report: Syrian infiltrator worked with Hizbullah

A SYRIAN officer who infiltrated the security zone in an attempt to seek political asylum in Israel had apparently worked at one stage with Hizbullah, Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday.

The *An-Nahar* daily reported that the defector, Abdel Khoudr Darweesh, 27, from Aleppo in Syria, had served with the Assad battalion of the Socialist Arab Ba'ath Party.

It said he had fought with members of the pro-Syrian Amal Shi'ite militia in battles with Hizbullah, but after the cease-fire agreement had worked with Hizbullah in the Iqlim al-Toufah region.

Middle East television reported that Darweesh was wanted by the Syrians and had tried to hide in Lebanon, but failed to find a job

DAVID RUDGE

and decided to seek political asylum in Israel.

He managed to evade two South Lebanese Army posts on the border of the zone and entered Alman village in the zone on Saturday night before being picked up by the SLA the following day. According to the reports, he was later handed over to the IDF authorities.

Meanwhile, news agencies reported yesterday that Israel had refused to give asylum to two Iraqi Kurdish families which also made their way to the security zone.

According to the reports, the two families, 11 people in all, were picked up on Sunday by SLA soldiers on the northern border of

the zone as they were making their way towards Beit Lef.

The reports said the families asked permission to cross the zone in order to reach Israel where they hoped to be granted political asylum.

They were expelled from the zone on Sunday night via the Beit Yahoun crossing point, after the request was apparently rejected by Israeli authorities.

UNIFIL sources said Military Police from the force's Irish battalion met the families after they passed through the Beit Yahoun crossing point. The soldiers, along with representatives of the Lebanese Red Cross, took the families to Tibnin hospital, north of the zone, where they were given shelter, food and drink.

Labor, Ramon try to resolve Histadrut crisis

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR's Histadrut faction leaders are due to meet Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon today in an effort to solve the coalition crisis over Ramon's suspension of Meir Gatt, chairman of the administration and personnel section.

The meeting was arranged following the intervention of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivili. Labor faction members said yesterday.

The crisis erupted following Ramon's retroactive annulment of the pension settlement signed with attorney Giora Einy, who had retired in May after Ramon won the Histadrut elections. Gatt, who had approved the pension agreement for Einy and was not consulted about Ramon's move, reinstated the pension and accused Ramon of conspiring behind

his back. Ramon, in turn, suspended Gatt.

Ramon, who wants to make a test case out of Einy's pension, announced that he would take the issue "all the way, even fight it out in court."

Sources said today's meeting is not only about Einy's pension, which even Labor faction members are prepared to review, but over the framework of the coalition partnership.

Gatt expressed hope that "we can open a new leaf in our relations with Ramon, and not be driven to opposite conclusions. Rabin said we are coalition partners, not the coalition's tail, and if someone tries to turn us into a tail, we're out of the coalition altogether. It is no disaster for a party which loses in the elections to go to the opposition. Perhaps it is even healthier for the system."

Agency head denys reports of impending aliya from Cuba

BATSHEVA TSUR

THERE is no imminent aliya of Cuban Jews to Israel and Israel has not been informed of a change in Havana's emigration policy, the acting chairman of the Jewish Agency said yesterday.

Yehiel Leket was responding to media reports of an impending exodus from Cuba of the Jewish community.

The reports came against the background of the worsening economic situation in Cuba and the rationing of basic food supplies and consumer goods. Travelers coming from Havana talk of long lines outside food stores where 40 grams of bread per person are distributed daily, five eggs a week and three kilos of rice a month. Only children under the age of seven are reportedly given milk, and most citizens have abandoned

their cars in favor of bicycles because of the lack of fuel.

Cuba's Jewish population, which for the most part was very wealthy, numbered 17,000 when Fidel Castro came to power, a Jewish Agency expert said yesterday. The vast majority left in the early days of the revolution, and most of the remaining 1,200 Jews have since intermarried.

Today the Jews of Cuba are suffering from the same economic woes as the remainder of the population but there is no antisemitism. The community is equally divided between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews. Only 8 percent have expressed an interest in making aliya but there is no free migration of complete families from Cuba.

Cuba severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 1973.

SLA soldier wounded in Hizbullah attack

DAVID RUDGE

A SOUTH Lebanese Army soldier was lightly wounded in a Hizbullah shooting attack in the security zone early yesterday.

The incident occurred around 6 a.m., when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with mortars, RPG's and light weapons from several locations at the SLA outpost near the village of Rashaf, in the western sector of the zone.

The shooting lasted for nearly two hours, with IDF and SLA gunners returning fire.

The wounded SLA soldier was later taken to Bint Ja'bail hospital inside the zone for treatment.

Meanwhile, military sources revealed that a Hizbullah gunman was killed in the clash with a patrol of Givati Brigade soldiers in the Aishbiyah region, in the eastern sector of the zone, early Saturday morning.

Captain Avshalom Oren, from Tiberias, and Sgt. Iyegny Vratzlavski of Jerusalem, were killed in the firefight, and two other soldiers lightly wounded.

Initial inquiries into the incident have revealed that the troops were returning from a patrol, when they came under fire from an heavily-armed Hizbullah squad that had apparently spotted them.

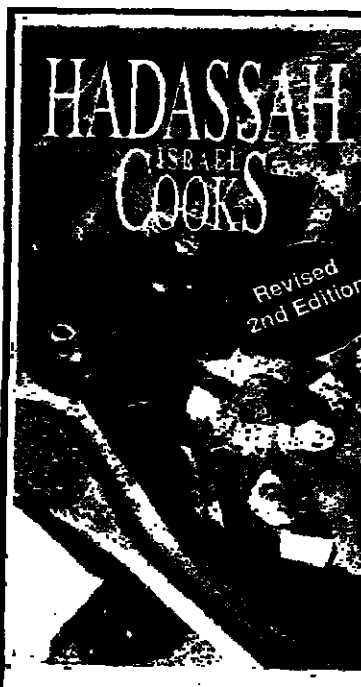
The gunmen opened fire from close range and the soldiers, who, according to the inquiry, acted properly, charged at the attackers, only to come under fire from another direction.

The Hizbullah gunmen quickly fled from the scene, leaving behind one dead and a large quantity of arms and explosives, including a recoilless rifle and anti-aircraft guns.

It appeared they had been planning to take part in a major attack against SLA or IDF positions in the region, but were thwarted by the Givati soldiers.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the Queen of spades, Jack of hearts, 10 of diamonds and nine of clubs.



Beekeepers, like this one at Kibbutz Yad Mordechai yesterday, are working double shifts to empty their hives of honey in time to supply the 400 tons needed by the local market for Rosh Hashana. (Yoni Reif)

'Deri's lawyers quitting is merely a trick to stall for time'

EVELYN GORDON

THE resignation of former interior minister Aryeh Deri's lawyers on Sunday is a trick to buy time, the heads of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel and Amicitia - Citizens for Good Government, said yesterday.

Attorneys Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Amnon Zichroni resigned after the Jerusalem District Court refused to back down from its decision to hold the trial five days a week. These leaves them without time to prepare from day to day, they said, and would also make it impossible for them to accept any other clients for a long period of time.

Attorneys Eliad Shraga of the Movement for Quality Government and Haim Misgav of Amicitia both said that by delaying the trial, Deri may be trying to lay the groundwork for a later claim of miscarriage of justice.

Neither Deri nor Avi-Yitzhak responded to a written list of questions, and Zichroni said he had orders from Deri not to discuss the case with reporters. However, Yoni Reif, who is being indicted on the same charges as Deri and whose lawyer has also resigned, indignantly denied that the defendants were trying to buy time. After more than four years, he

said, they just want to get the trial over with.

Normally, the court must approve attorneys' resignations. However, Shraga said, it is not clear whether the court could refuse to do so in this case, because Deri contracted with his lawyers only for the preliminary proceedings, which are over.

Prof. Eliezer Lederman of Tel Aviv University added that in any case, it is very rare for a court to refuse to approve a resignation, because of the need for a client to have confidence in his lawyer.

However, Misgav noted, there have been precedents. When attorneys for former Shas MK Yair Levy resigned during Levy's trial, the Tel Aviv District Court refused to okay the resignation, and the High Court of Justice upheld the decision.

If the court upholds the resignation, Deri could either find another lawyer, accept a court-appointed lawyer, or represent himself. While there is no obligation on the court to delay the trial in any of these cases, Lederman said it is hard to imagine that the court would

not do so.

"No one wants to give the accused the feeling that he's being persecuted," he said.

By not giving a new lawyer time, the court would also open itself to having a conviction overturned on appeal, on the grounds that Deri had not been given a reasonable chance to defend himself.

But even if the court refused to okay the resignations, Lederman said, Deri's lawyers would probably appeal the decision, so there might still be some delay.

By law, the court is not obligated to find a lawyer for Deri, Lederman added. Representation by a lawyer is obligatory only in cases where each count of the indictment carries a sentence of at least 10 years, or when the defendant is a minor, or handicapped in some way that would prevent him from handling his own trial.

However, one legal expert, who asked not to be named, said it is hard to believe that Deri would let Deri represent himself, given the political ramifications of the trial. This would simply give Deri the opportunity to portray himself as a martyr, the expert said.

Two busts in North yield over nine kilos of drugs

OVER nine kilograms of drugs, including heroin, hashish and marijuana, were confiscated over the past several days in two separate incidents in the North.

In the first case, 5.2 kg. of heroin from Lebanon was confiscated near the village of Iksal, just south of Nazareth. The courier, Mohammed Alturi, 37, of Kafir Kassem, was arrested. He was remanded yesterday for 15 days by the Acre Magistrate's Court.

He was captured after police received intelligence information about the smuggling of drugs from Lebanon to be sold in the center of the country. Upon learning that the courier would be transporting the drugs on a motorcycle, police set up roadblocks along the presumed route, and Alturi was stopped near Iksal.

In the second case, Acre police used drug-sniffing dogs to raid a home in Kafir Yarka and found 4.2 kg. of hashish and marijuana, marijuana seeds and a small quantity of heroin. There were no arrests reported.

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British tourist gets 11 months for manslaughter

RAINE MARCUS

A BRITISH tourist was sentenced to 11 months in prison by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for the manslaughter of engineer Meiron Rochberg.

In sentencing 24-year-old Andrew Carol, Judge Oded Mudrich said he took into account a psychiatric report which said the defendant was mentally disturbed and a prolonged prison sentence was likely to make him permanently psychotic.

"There is no evidence to show that defendant intended to kill Rochberg," said Mudrich.

The incident occurred last February at a Tel Aviv building site. Carol, who was looking for odd jobs to finance his stay here, asked Rochberg for a job and was accepted.

Rochberg explained what the work entailed. Then, for no apparent reason, the court heard, Carol punched Rochberg in the face. The engineer fell onto a concrete block, hit his head, and lost consciousness. Carol fled and was only captured two weeks later in Eilat.

Rochberg never regained consciousness and died five days later in the hospital. Defense lawyer Efraim Kahan said Carol suffered from mental disturbances.

"He did not believe that a punch in the face would result in the death of Rochberg," he said. "If he had not fallen onto concrete he would still be alive."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Motorcyclist dies of road accident injuries

Shmuel Halfon, a motorcyclist hit by a bus in Holon 10 days ago, died of his injuries early yesterday morning at Sheba Hospital. The 32-year-old driver was questioned by police after the accident and released. They must now decide whether to suspend his license. (Itm)

Man hurt by hit-and-run motorcyclist

Ya'acov Gudiner, 82, of Holon, suffered serious injuries when he was hit by a motorcyclist near his home. The biker fled the scene. Gudiner was taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. (Itm)

Big shark found off Haifa beach

A four-meter-long shark appeared yesterday afternoon at the Carmel Beach in Haifa, causing a panic among hundreds of bathers. Lifeguards ordered all the bathers out of the water and also alerted the Coastal Police, who searched in vain for additional sharks. (Itm)

Quarry worker hurt in accident

A quarry worker suffered serious injuries yesterday when he was sucked into a vacuum device at the site on the Golan Heights. Welder Shimon Avital, 35, was suddenly sucked 10 meters into the installation. Rescue workers could only reach him by descending on cables into the vacuum, where they gave him oxygen and then removed him. (Itm)

Bread prices up, Materna prices down

As of today, bread prices are higher by an average of 4.37 percent, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday. The bread price increase reflects the rise in raw materials costs, ministry economist Shabtai Levy said. The following are new bread prices, including Value Added Tax: dark bread (750 gr.), NIS 1.70; white bread (750 gr.), NIS 1.70; Challah or yeast bread (500 gr.), NIS 1.75; bread roll (75 gr.), NIS 0.55; Sliced and packaged dark bread (750 gr.), NIS 1.95; sliced and packaged white bread (500 gr.), NIS 1.85.

UJA Mission arrives for talks

THE United Jewish Appeal the Prime Minister's Mission arrived last night after meeting with King Hassan in Morocco. They plan to study developments in the peace process during meetings with local leaders. The mission members were held up one day because of problems with their aircraft.

'Jericho bypass road plans not canceled'

The Treasury yesterday denied rumors that the government has canceled plans to build the Jericho bypass road. Treasury spokesman Eliezer Braun said that the NIS 35 million road is included in the Public Works Department (PWD) road construction program for next year. He added, however, that the 1993 program requires a NIS 1 billion spending increase. Should the government fail to provide the increase, PWD will have to decide whether the new Jericho bypass road, which would replace the current single-lane road heretofore used by the army, is enough of a high priority to remain within the constraints of a smaller budget.

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Cypriot president visits Ashdod

CYPRIOU President Glafcos Clerides and his family arrived in Ashdod yesterday aboard a yacht for a short vacation after five days at sea.

He was received by Ashdod

Mayor Zvi Zilker, who also arranged a ceremony for Clerides upon his departure.

"After my first short visit here three weeks ago, I already had a feeling of great warmth towards the people in Israel. Today in Ashdod, I found the full reasons for that feeling: the warm reception of the Ashdod mayor and his wife, which will bring me back to Israel soon," said Clerides, who spent the day touring Ashdod.

During the day, Clerides expressed his pleasure over the peace moves between Israel and Jordan.

Zilker said he looked forward to cooperation between Ashdod and the Cypriot port city of Limassol. "This is a historic moment for us - on the day the border was opened between Israel and Jordan we are honored by the visit of the Cypriot president. Here a channel for cooperation has been established in trade, tourism and culture between the two cities." (Itm)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN ISRAEL



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Ori Devir

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page/excursion, and with instructions for getting to the locations. Based on the ITV production, *Nekudat Chen*. Hardcover, 1989, Adama Books.

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